

LULL IN THE BASE BALL WAR

Magnates Take a Week's Rest and Public Gets Advantage.

QUESTION BETWEEN HICKEY AND POWERS

Ohio Man Says It Hinges on Matter of Chase or Spaulding Ball for Use of Minor Leagues.

"Nothing doing." That's the story in the base ball war just at present. Seven days of almost absolute quiet have succeeded seven days of incessant exchange of verbal and epistolary volleys all along the line. This must not be taken to indicate that any of the magnates have decided to quit. More likely it merely presages a more vigorous explosion in the near future. Some little activity has been noted along the skirmish lines, but nothing of any moment. For example, the Des Moines papers published circumstantial accounts of how Papa Bill Roush visited that city to negotiate with Messrs. Flynn and others in regard to the franchise in that city. Mr. Roush returns to Omaha and denies that he was in Des Moines at all. He says he was at St. Louis looking after a contract with a player. The Des Moines Leader is authority for the statement that Flynn and his partners have had enough of base ball and if the Hawkeye capital is to have a team in the Western or any other league it will be put in by some one else. Mr. Flynn states that he expects to sell to Roush.

Out in Denver the papers have blown a big bubble and then merrily smashed it. They interpreted Beall's remark that he would have a team in Denver to mean that it would be an American association team and then, after chucking a few odorous bouquets at Denver as being the most important spot on the base ball map, they proceeded to argue what is apparent to any one, that Denver is too far out of the way to be a profitable member of the American association circuit. They had easily disposed of Omaha's proposition in that direction by calmly taking over the Omaha franchise and then threw the whole thing up in the air. Of course, when Denver dropped out that ended the American. Now they are piping a different tune. It appears that Beall has no intention of putting in a rival team, but intends to go into court to fight for his franchise. He insists that the Western league cannot dispose of him in the summary manner proposed, for he has property rights at stake and these must be respected. To a man up a tree it looks like Beall had the better of the argument. It was a while ago that the Western league magnates last year that Indianapolis could only secure the Denver franchise by buying it, because of the money invested. Now these same magnates propose to render the money invested in Denver worthless in order to get even with Beall for his alleged duplicity in dealing with Tebeau. This course hardly looks right. Some good lawyers have expressed the opinion that Beall can win. At all events, the courts at Denver will have a busy time to try the case.

"Tommy" Burns of Colorado Springs and Jimmy Manning of Kansas City want to get together. When Manning got back from the Indianapolis trip he gave out the information that Watkins would not listen to the Western league proposition. Burns, on his arrival at Colorado Springs, announced that Indianapolis would surely be added to the Western league circuit. One or the other of these gentlemen is wrong, surely. Messrs. Van Brunt and Whitfield have not yet been heard in the premises.

The Columbus Dispatch has added materially to the safety of the situation. In a labored effort, which consumed something like four columns of his valuable space, the base ball editor of that most enterprising journal has exposed the truth in regard to the empty Pat Powers harbors against Tom Hickey. It all comes from the effort to secure the endorsement of the National Association of Minor Leagues for the Spaulding and Reach balls. Pat Powers and Tim Murnane were in a conspiracy to get these balls adopted for the minor leagues, when Hickey came forward with Mr. W. F. Chase of Des Moines and offered to furnish each team represented by the association with three dozen balls annually and pay a cash bonus of \$15,000 for the privilege of advertising the Chase ball as the official ball of the organization. After charging that there was an understanding that if the endorsement of the National association could be secured for the Spaulding ball the Eastern league would get its balls free, the Columbus editor proceeds to suit scoldize Hickey and pillory Powers.

The result of the whole matter was that, instead of A. G. Spaulding kidnapping the National association through his agent, President P. T. Powers, and securing the contract for furnishing the balls to the minor leagues in the country, thereby continuing his base ball monopoly, the minor league magnates left the New York free to select their own ball for next season and with a very careful eye on the matter individual contracts would be worth to the manufacturer. Now the fact of the matter is that the contract to furnish the balls for any one minor league, individually, is not worth nearly so much as it would appear when the manufacturer is figuring on the contract with all the minor leagues as a whole. The contract as a whole would be worth \$25,000 to A. G. Spaulding as an advertisement. The individual leagues may refuse to look at this phase of the question, however, and they will doubtless be that several makes of balls will be used by the different minor leagues next season, which have formerly been shut out of this market by the terms of the old national agreement, which provided that either the Spaulding or Reach ball must be used.

Now all this happened because Thomas J. Hickey was man enough to fight a good battle for a friend to whom he felt under obligations. For that friendship and for that obligation to the sportsman who has more than one bitter enemy and subjected himself to all kinds of criticism from these newly created ones. Does this indicate that President Hickey is the bad fellow that Pat Powers has tried to make the public believe?

Now P. T. Powers has been in the employ of A. G. Spaulding for thirty years. This is no discredit to Mr. Powers. Mr. Spaulding is known as a good business man and Mr. Powers lost nothing by being associated with such a man in a business way. Naturally, because of his long associations with Mr. Spaulding, he was very anxious that the Spaulding ball should be made the official ball of the National association. When Thomas J. Hickey presented the realization of that which Mr. Hickey, and when the latter declared the American association independent of the National Association of Professional Base Ball Leagues, President Powers jumped at the opportunity offered to place Mr. Hickey in a false light before the public by expelling him from the National association, without having had already resigned.

Either there is an enormous profit in selling base balls or Chase is willing to pay a tremendous price for his advertising. The National Association of Minor Leagues claims to represent fifteen leagues. If each of these leagues has eight teams, there are 120 teams in the organization. If each league has the 126-game schedule, each team will play sixty-three games on the home ground. An average of three new balls will be required for each game. This would make 189 balls for the season. Just to make it even numbers, say 192 balls, or sixteen dozen, are used each season. If Mr. Chase gave each team three dozen balls, the manager would be required to purchase thirteen dozen. At \$12 per dozen this would be \$156 for each team, or \$18,720 for the 120 teams of the National association. Take the \$15,000 cash bonus from this, and Mr. Chase would have left \$3,720 to pay for 18,720 balls of the first quality a little over 19 cents apiece. If it costs five cents to put a \$1.25 ball on the market, the loss on each ball of these 1,500 dozen balls to the maker is 56 cents. If he has a profit of 25 cents on each ball he puts out to the retailer, he must net \$1,233 on a little more than 3,000 dozen, to seem out even on the season. It is right to see that if the Columbus man is right, Mr. Chase is willing to run his factory at the rate of ten dozen balls of the highest grade each day in the year, just for the fun of having the minor league knock them about. Inasmuch as it would require 222 teams playing sixty-three games each, and each using three balls to the same to use up this supply, it must be apparent that a very lively corner lot campaign would have to be carried on to get the ball contract that is at the bottom of the enmity between Powers and Hickey.

Up to date no reason to revise the judgment of last week, that Powers is jealous of Hickey's effort to break into major league company, has appeared. In his speech at Kansas City Powers used figures compiled by the renowned Tim Murnane, who, by comparing the population of the eight cities in the Eastern league and the eight proposed for the American association, showed conclusively that the Eastern is the biggest. Tim is set up as becoming a man from Boston, but he isn't well informed in regard to the west. If he were, he'd think several times before he would indulge in such comparisons as he has made. Timothy should look over the business of the two sets of cities, compare their population relative importance in the world of commerce and sport, and make a brief calculation as to their base ball possibilities, and maybe he would revise his statement. Fortunately, however, the dictum of this wonderful man from the Hub doesn't go very far in deciding matters here in Omaha. So we'll try to worry along just the same as though he had never said it.

Then, there's that word "outlaw," which is being bandied around so freely just now. When Ben Johnson made his break for better things he was called an outlaw and heifer several other things. He was successful and now he is the whole thing. If some of the enthusiasts who just now are working overtime to abuse Tom Hickey and call him "outlaw" will only arrange matters so that they won't explode before next week, they may sign another tune. Maybe Hickey won't be an outlaw then.

When Mr. Packard reached Denver he expressed much regret at having to part with George Tebeau. "Tebeau is one of the best base ball men in the country," said Mr. Packard, and Tebeau's place in the Western has been taken by Burns of Colorado Springs, whose base ball experience dates from last fall, when he bought out Hulea's interest in the Colorado Springs franchise.

Absolutely nothing has developed in the situation so far as Omaha is concerned. This town is the keystone of the Western league arch. It is Omaha or no Western league. The American association wants Omaha for this reason. That's all there is to it.

SHOOTERS TAKE SOME REST

Traps Abandoned for Time While Experts Talk Over Former Achievements.

After two or three weeks of especially continuous trigger work the shotgun men have during the past week found themselves comparatively quiet. There has been little doing locally either at the traps or in the field, and the shooters are mostly lying low and catching their wind for the next period of animated "pull" commands. True, there was a little one-day meet at Snyder, Neb., on Monday last, and several Omaha men had planned to attend. The fall of snow that began Sunday night, however, caused them to alter their plans and no one from the Gate City drew a bead at a target or live bird either on that day. The same reason prevented any local representation at the two days' shoot at Halington, Ia., which was held on Thursday and Friday. The fact that neither affair drew

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any Omaha competition was considerable. A disappointment to the sportsman here, they have found that there is much joy to be dug up at these little meets about the countryside. In fact, it has just this season become a common custom for a little bevy of the local cranks to take in these neighboring shoots, and some hot competition is developed.

The infrequency of such events here and the still more seldom occurrence of live bird affairs on local grounds is by no means satisfying to those who are especially enamored of the game and they find that by going in a crowd to a foreign city they can start just as much excitement and make things pretty lively. Every member of the party which goes out to such a meet is pledged to shoot clear through every event from start to finish of the program and besides the contest among themselves for high and percentage they find many worthy opponents among the strangers at the shoots. On more than one occasion it has been a source of keen enjoyment for the rest of the crowd and keener acclaim at the expense of the disappointed member of the gang to beat some foreign sportsman ignominiously defeated at the traps by a rural unknown with a gun built in 1873.

It was expected that the snow would call out the usual bevy of rabbit enthusiasts, and they did take up the chase for the first day or two. However, those who went out invariably returned crestfallen and with empty gamebags, for they say that they are up against a combination that cannot be beaten. In the first place the bunnies are scarce and in the second place the hunters say they have been shooting at birds and clays so long that they cannot hit anything on the ground.

PUGILISTS STRIKE HARD LINES

Pleasant Winter Prospects in Omaha Shut Off by Action of Police Authorities.

Locally the fighting game has received a severe slap in the face by the official edict at South Omaha that the boxing ring must be closed for the winter. Sports at the southern end hope that the ban will be removed soon, but meanwhile no more matches can be arranged. This may nip in the bud the best circuit of fights that has been scheduled for a winter in these parts for some time. The frequency and success of contests of this sort had gathered in Omaha and South Omaha a regular little army of prize fighters, and with them bunched in that manner frequent matches were certain. A casual list of the ring contestants living here today will show how good the prospects were. There is Oscar Gardner, Eddie Gardner, Danny Haley, Johnnie Richie, Halch Smith, James Whittaker, all men of interstate reputation and established fighters. Then among the lesser Kansas City pugilists are the young fellows, may be numbered Clarence English, young Stafford, Peter Rooney, Kid Gleason and Terry Mustain. A complete shutoff on all sporting affairs will cause these men to scamper off to other localities like sheep, but there are indications that such a course will not be necessitated.

Danny Haley, the promising local kid-slayer, had a streak of ill luck at Kansas City last Tuesday night which is seldom duplicated. In his fight with George Fitzgerald of St. Louis he had his arm whipped in the fifth round, George taking the count three times successively and being finally saved by the gong. Then in the next round Danny got a little careless and a mere wildly driven blow from George's glove took him in the stomach and disabled him so that Fitzgerald was able to get easily to his jaw and put him out. The stomach blow was a mere last wild rally."

LAST WEEK WITH BOWLERS

No Change in Team Standing and No Notable Scores Made in League Games.

Club Standings. Omaha, W. L. P. H. C. High Tot. Ave. Omaha..... 33 15 97 974 41,201 809-7-7. Clarkson..... 28 29 283 966 40,181 837-19-9. Gate City..... 21 31 916 40,281 822-12-2. St. Charles..... 22 34 947 29,984 833. German..... 21 24 259 964 29,574 829-7-10. National..... 21 27 437 924 28,801 808-3-10. Krug Park..... 21 27 437 924 28,801 808-3-10. National..... 21 27 437 924 28,801 808-3-10. High score, Seanan (Gate City), 227.

Absolutely no change in the relative standing of the eight teams of the Omaha Bowling league resulted from last week's play. They remain in the same sequence, and for another week or two are a tie, an unusual thing in this stationary condition. The stationery condition was accomplished by a peculiar bunching of victories with the top liners. Each of the four first teams won two games from its adversaries, which chance to be the lower four teams.

Bowling was rather listless all the week. No exceptional scores, either individual or team, were made; no records were raised, and the average of each team, save the Gate City and the Nationals, dropped as a result of the play. The Gate City men topped the list with a total of 2,622, and Seanan of that team led the individual score with 237 pins.

As a matter of fact the eyes of all the Omaha bowlers, like those of the rollers everywhere in the country, have been turned all week toward Buffalo, where the progress of the American Bowling congress tournament has been watched with great interest, both from a political and a playing standpoint. Western bowlers have followed with a tremor of excitement the progress of the sectionalized tour, which threatened for several days to disrupt the congress completely. The same tactics which eastern influences have shown in all national athletic organizations, the American Athletic union, the League of American Wheelmen, and even slightly in the United States Golf association, having started early in the American Bowling congress, and the same rule-or-ruin spirit was manifested for a time by the eastern representatives.

Other sentiments finally prevailed, however, and with the withdrawal by the east of its presidential candidate, Ebbitts of New York, and the election of an entire new slate, with Mayor Bookwalter of Indianapolis as president, the storm blew over and the integrity of the congress is unimpaired.

It is an extreme gratification to local rollers that Al Krug, captain of the Germans, won with his bowling partner, Dyringer of Los Angeles, second place in the two-man contest. Their score was 1,220, very close to the 1,237 made by the Chicago team, McClean and Steers, which took first. The game was very interesting, and this event, being 107 entries. The loudly applauded total score of 2,782 pins, made by the Nationals of New York City on Tuesday, and which was at once slated for first prize by the enthusiasts, has been beaten locally in the Omaha league. On November 12, in a game against the Germans, the Omahas threw 2,758, with Wigmam, Smead, Read, Emery and Zarp rolling.

The fresh air winds are hopeful that the rays of kindly Sol will shortly dissipate the snow and remove all traces of its visitation. The ice underneath need not necessarily have been injured perceptibly by the fall, since it was quite a cold snap when the snow came, and it has not stuck in to any extent. Even now it would be possible to skate very comfortably on such places as Cut Off lake, for the snow only gathered in patches, and there are many pathways of pure bare ice from one end of the sheet to the other with no need of striking snow at all for the skate. It is necessary to pick your way as you go, and this is not pleasing to the fancy free skater who wishes to swing from side to side recklessly in huge, soaring curves. There has been such continuous skating that the fancy skaters have had for the first time in years had a real opportunity to get in perfect form, and they are just now arriving at their best. The first week or so was devoted by all of them chiefly to getting the feel of the ice, and many in becoming accustomed to new, but the gang to beat some foreign sportsman ignominiously defeated at the traps by a rural unknown with a gun built in 1873.

WRESTLERS ARE WARMING UP

Local Mat Artists Have Plenty Doing for All-Comers Just Now.

The wrestling bouts last Saturday night between Peter Loch and Frank Greenman and Terry Mustain and Bert LeBron were not only the initial events of the revival of local mat games in Omaha, they were also appetizers to whet the palate of the Omaha sporting fraternity for the big match to come, that between the well known Farmer Burns of Iowa and Joe Carroll, the Pacific coast champion. This contest will take place at the Trocadero next Saturday night, February 1. It will be a blood match and each man has already posted a side bet of \$500, which means some fierce wrestling. Neither has come to Omaha yet to stay, but both are training hard for the event. News from Carroll just received by his manager, says that the information that he is training at the South Side Athletic club in Chicago. He writes that he has been unable to secure a match in the Windy city, as he had hoped, and that the wrestling game is dead there. He had intended, if he were allowed to be nothing else, to Chicago to go east after a match with Atherton, but that wrestler's recent defeat by Jim Parr has made this out of the question. Carroll says he will be on hand next Saturday night ready to make Burns so some, although he was considerably taken aback by still another young fellow, who there considered Burns the best in the business.

Meanwhile Peter Loch, manager of Burns, says that his man is working out at the Davenport Athletic club gymnasium in Davenport, Ia. The Farmer is always in pretty good shape and he will show up well in this match as usual, despite the fact that he wrestles on January 30 and 31 in Iowa towns and will be compelled to jump on the train and hurry to Omaha Saturday for this bout. After considerable argument the men have agreed to wrestle the best three falls out of five and that will give endurance a considerable hand in the contest. Local sports consider it very improbable that either contestant will have any easy thing. Some good preliminaries are being arranged for this night.

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